



City of Seattle
Michael McGinn, Mayor

March 26, 2010

To the Google Fiber for Communities Project,

I am writing to strongly encourage you to choose Seattle as one of the communities to participate in your "Fiber for Communities" project. Seattle is an excellent and unique choice for this Google project. In no other large community can you hit the ground running in all four critical areas: supportive political leadership, strong community interest, a wide variety of potential new applications, and access to existing assets that will enable speedy, efficient, and effective deployment of the project.

Supportive political leadership. Fiber to the Home is a major initiative of my administration. I believe this is a critical investment in our physical infrastructure that will provide a foundation for socially just economic growth in Seattle. The Seattle City Council is also supportive of expanding broadband access, as demonstrated by their recently adopted priorities for 2010, including an access and transparency priority which states that we will "...explore a Smart Grid for electricity and expanded Broadband access."

Strong interest from a tech-savvy community. Our communities are highly connected and want more: 74 percent of Seattle homes are connected to the Internet at speeds greater than dial up, and our market research confirms that residents want faster Internet speeds. These same residents go to work each day for the software industry, the bio-tech industry, public and private schools and universities, and much more. Google's fiber network will provide a platform to harness the collective ingenuity and enterprise of our residents to develop creative new solutions for the increasingly complex issues affecting our communities.

Wide variety of potential uses for new broadband applications. A Fiber for Communities project in Seattle would have many customers eager for Google's gigabit service, ensuring that the project would test a full array of new applications. Possibilities include:

- Fully interactive remote classrooms
- Full-motion, full sized, high definition business video conferencing
- Sophisticated telemedicine applications and the transmission of extremely large diagnostic data
- Remote backup and restoration of mission-critical and enterprise data

- Advanced smart grid utility applications
- Real-time web-based simulations and training
- The expansion of work-at-home and telecommuting programs
- Innovative and robust home-based businesses competing on a global scale

Existing assets to enable speedy, efficient and effective deployment of Google project. The City has several assets in place right now that Google can leverage to make project deployment speedy, efficient, and effective:

- Seattle has already laid 485 miles of overhead and underground fiber cable throughout the City. Public schools in Seattle are hooked up, as are other public entities such as our libraries, police precincts, most fire stations, and some hospitals. Google's fiber network can inter-connect with this existing institutional fiber network so that residents and public institutions can together explore the potential for new services and applications.
- In laying the existing fiber cable in the City, Seattle staff have gained valuable knowledge and experience in engineering design, route examination, materials procurement, permit application, and so on. These staff will be available to assist Google as it plans and implements its deployment.
- The infrastructure that the Google project will need to access (e.g., electric poles, underground conduit, utilidors that cross waterways) is already in place and is owned by the City.

While other cities have one or two of the attributes noted above, no other major U.S. city has all four. In Seattle, you could leverage our existing fiber and electric infrastructure to create a test bed for our communities, businesses, and schools to develop cutting edge, killer applications that are only possible with the availability of fiber technology. And you already have the political leadership needed for such a pilot to be successful. We hope you consider our application, and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Michael McGinn
Mayor